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March 12, 2015

Ms. Nancy Rumrill  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-3-2  
79 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Florence Copper, Inc.  
Copper Project in Arizona

Dear Ms. Rumrill:

As President of Pioneer Equipment and a member of the Board of Directors of AMIGOS, a trade association representing most suppliers to mining and other industries in Arizona, I am pleased to comment in support of Florence Copper's in-situ recovery project in AZ. Florence Copper's project will be a positive asset to the State of Arizona and The United States of America as it will economically benefit Arizona, Pinal County, the Town of Florence and local employers, like Pioneer and other AMIGOS member companies, that rely on operations such as this to support our business and our employees.

Florence Copper has filed for a permit for a 2-year small scale test phase to demonstrate the safety and viability of their proposed in-situ recovery project and I am confident that facility is based on next generation recovery that will result in a very small environmental footprint. I respect the EPA experts and scientists and know they will thoroughly review this permit request and I believe the EPA should agree to support this test and closely monitor the results of the testing to confirm this is a good project for the community so I respectfully request the EPA quickly finalize the permit so this test phase can begin.

Pioneer Equipment is a small business distributing and servicing equipment supplied to mining and other industries in Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada and provides jobs for our personnel who would benefit from this project. More importantly, and once proven by the test phase, this project would bring much needed tax revenue to Arizona, Pinal County and the Town of Florence as it will pay about \$ 630mil in state and federal taxes and about \$ 75mil in local property taxes to support local schools and the local police and fire departments. Additionally, it will pay up to \$ 160mil in royalties to the AZ State Land Department and create 240 full time jobs in the Florence area, nearly 800 indirect jobs statewide and would represent more than \$ 750mil in capital investment in Pinal County to become one of that county's largest private investments.

Thank you for considering my support for this project as I do believe it is well designed and will prove to be beneficial for the local area, the state and for our nation. Florence Copper has already gone through a rigorous review and comment process and received more than a dozen State and Federal permits. Since AZ Department of Environmental Quality and the EPA have reviewed the science and have issued draft permits I am hopeful you will quickly approve the permit for the test phase of this project

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. L. Thomas, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

N. L. Thomas, Jr.  
President